UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/767
17 December 1993
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 9

GENERAL DEBATE

Note verbale dated 16 December 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Haiti to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of Haiti to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General, and, with reference to the address by His Excellency President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to the General Assembly on 28 October 1993, has the honour to request that part of the address be replaced by the text annexed hereto (see annex).

The Permanent Representative of Haiti would be grateful if the Secretary-General would have this note and the annex hereto circulated as an official document of the General Assembly.

ANNEX

First part of the address by the President of the Republic of Haiti to the General Assembly on 28 October 1993

I am happy to greet the Assembly on behalf of the people of Haiti.

Together with Prime Minister Robert Malval and the Haitian ministers and diplomats present here, I offer my thanks to the United Nations and to all those who are with us on the road to restoring democracy to Haiti.

Particular thanks go to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS), President Bill Clinton, Special Envoy Dante Caputo, Special Adviser Lawrence Pezullo, and the four friendly countries of Canada, France, Venezuela and the United States of America.

I cannot fail to mention all the other friends in the Caribbean, America, Europe and Asia who are so dear to us and have given us such a warm welcome.

In 1492, the peoples of Africa reached the new world. Half a millennium has already elapsed since then - 500 years of history that have reaped abundant cultural and liberating harvests. From 1791 to 1804, under the leadership of Toussaint Louverture and Jean-Jacques Dessalines, Haiti won its independence and the life-force of freedom has become blood of our blood and flesh of our flesh.

We are alive. Haiti will live. Haiti is us. We are Haiti.

Undoubtedly there have been ups and downs and there will continue to be. Nevertheless, nothing can prevent us from defending our inalienable and undeniable right to life, to liberty and to the quest for happiness in accordance with our Act of Independence of 1804 and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948.